

Wednesday Nov 15

Dearest

Yesterday was not a specially interesting day except that good news in the morning is better than any thing. It was foggy and dull and dark and rather cold. I found I got pretty cold sitting in that room at Guildford. It was a dull morning no one interesting there.

The afternoon we spent in tidying up the school room which needed it badly and in waiting letters. I did not get any thing done at all.

I don't suppose I shall have much time today I am going to tea with Mrs Radcliffe this afternoon.

I don't dislike Johnson himself as much as I did when I began his life, but his ideas are rather awful, every thing to remain as it is and all people to be kept in their places as much as possible. His desire seems all for convenience rather than for what is intrinsically right.

Boswell now is much better, he seems to have a very sound judgement and a far - & right one he always differs from Johnson in ways that history has since proved to ~~the~~ <sup>be</sup> right. The American colony difficultly for instance.

I was reading an old letter over last night and you told me that Mr Dunbar & Capt. Lithgow had gone to Amius together and you hoped they would make it up and be more friendly, did they?

Father was full of joy last night because Gridley has said he will summon him for a breach of contract. Its about fir trees on the common. He bought a lot and took them but it was in the contract that he should clear up the 'foible', all the small branches and general mess which is left. He did not do it so for Father said he could not have the next lot till he did, then as he still didn't Father sold them to some one else & they were furious because wood is very valuable & hard to come by now. I dont suppose Gridley will summon but Bob Witt has written to say that they cannot have trees & that we will accept the summons. I love to see Father on the war path he does enjoy it so much.

Its going to be a lovely day today beautiful sunshine and no mist.

I hope dear that we shall have some nice days like

this when you get leave. Is leave always frightfully slow in the RGA or is it only bad luck? Do you think after this leave, it will again be six or eight months before you get another. I do hope not I don't know how I could start off knowing I had to wait such an awful time without you.

On Monday we went to tea with Constance Munn and took Clare; she does not take very much notice of Renee though Renee is rather keen about her. But then Renee is a good bit bigger and she is rather apt to thump Clare, not with any ill intention only it does not enter her head that it hurts. So I think Clare is a bit frightened of her. But they had a very happy evening. Clare spent most of the time crawling round the room exploring. She can go much faster than Renee & is much less afraid of falling so I expect she will get on with walking pretty fast if we don't keep her back which we must try to do. Clare does not seem to mind a bit going down a bump when she is standing, but Renee lets her self down with the utmost ease.

Another letter this morning. And you enclose one

from Mrs Fletcher, its a very nice letter isn't it  
and sensible and she does say what she means  
which is such a blessing.

It seems rather a shame that Robert and  
Johnstone should be kept apart and rather  
unless because directly Johnstone has left school  
there will be nothing to prevent them from seeing  
one another. Of course I am talking quite in the  
dark and do not really understand the circumstances;  
but if I were a boys mother I dont think I would  
read his correspondence & then make use of it  
like that. I dont quite see that even parents  
have a right to, well they may have a right  
but I very much doubt if they are wise  
I should think you and Bell will have a jolly  
time together. I do so wonder how much you  
have had to do with this last push. I should  
think nothing. But I suppose its kept you  
sort of lively.

I dont agree with you about peace, I cant help  
thinking that it would be foolish to make  
it now when we are just beginning to do the  
winning. By next Autumn or Summer we

probably be a good deal stronger in propositon to them than we are now. Now the only terms we could get would be things-as-before, and that would mean no indemnity to help Belgium and really they must have that. It isn't that I love the war as you know but it does seem to me that it would be absurd to stop now. Well there is no chance of it. I almost wish there was.

It's all right about that cheque its paid in, they let me sign it for you. It jolly nearly wasn't all right. It did not come out of the envelope with the other things and got thrown away & Wainson found it. I am awfully sorry dear to have been so careless as to allow such a thing to happen. But I suppose I saw it was business stuff and sent it on to you without looking as it sufficiently to realize that a cheque that should be there wasn't. Wainson said it was right away at the bottom of the envelope.

How is it you are second in command I though Dunbar was a first lieutenant. and had been with

the halter longer than you.

Had you any idea we should do any thing on your front so soon after that wet weather.

Many people seem to think we had stopped for the whole winter. Over 5000 prisoners is a pretty good haul for the section front.

I wonder what the Russians are doing and why they cant move. They only seem to do well when we are doing badly. Every one says they are stronger than ever. I wish they would show it.

Oh I hope you will get here soon.

Yours very loving  
Ruth.

